

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 5, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 5, 2003**. Excellent weather conditions throughout the week gave way to progress in harvesting crops Statewide. Additionally, cool temperatures and low humidity contributed to intensified planting of seasonal forages. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 28 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	98	96	97	98	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	93	90	96	99	2	6	15	44	33
	Harvested	45	30	27	51	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Mature	100	99	100	99	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	85	75	79	85	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Harvested	99	98	99	99	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	98	95	96	97	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	91	86	89	92	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	75	68	50	61	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	34	22	12	15	0	0	14	58	28
	Emerged	17	9	0	5	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	99	98	98	97	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	65	45	45	54	0	10	25	26	39
Cattle						1	6	19	58	16
Pasture						1	8	29	54	8

County Agent Comments

"Ryegrass, oats and wheat continue to be planted at a fast pace. Recent rains provided moisture needed to bring up early planted forages. Producers are on the lookout for armyworms, but cool weather will hopefully reduce infestations. Soybeans have begun turning color and could have a very good yield potential. Cattle producers are also wrapping up summer hay harvest."

— Richard Hay, Amite

"A full week of sun provided ideal harvest weather. Soybean harvest essentially caught up. We are waiting on the last of soybeans to mature and be harvested. Cotton harvest in full swing, with yield thus far matching expectations for bumper crop. Some pastures beginning to play out, but August-September pasture quality was above average thanks to late summer rain."

— Terry Rector, Warren

"We desperately need substantial rainfall to germinate cool season forages. We are dry, dry, dry."

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Producers took advantage of weather conditions to complete cotton and corn harvest. Bean harvest should begin any day now. Corn yields will probably average 140-150 bushels per acre. We are still waiting on cotton tickets. Many modules have not been moved to the gin yet. Rain will be welcomed by those who have planted winter grazing.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Producers have had an excellent season for hay. There will be adequate supplies to provide supplemental winter feed in addition to grazing of winter pastures. Producers are also beginning to plant ryegrass and clover crops for winter grazing.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Farmers are getting the crops out of the field as fast as they get ready. Some defoliation may be going on a little early for the later cotton, prompted by memories of last year.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Since we missed the rain that was predicted to hit our area last week, we have made very good progress with our harvest. The grades should hold up pretty good on the cotton. Cotton yields are in the 1,000 lb. to 1,400 lb. range and soybean yields are believed to reach record highs.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Corn harvest is near completion. Cotton and soybeans are being harvested. The yields for all crops are looking good so far.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Cotton harvest has started and it looks good so far. We still have about 10 percent that is replanted, so it is very late. The only problem we are having is with some defoliation in this cool weather. It is working very slow.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“This was a very busy week for producers. Cotton defoliation, soybean harvesting, wheat planting and hay harvesting were all going at full speed. Soybean yields look very promising, with good test weights reported.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Corn harvest is almost complete with good yields. Cold temperatures have prompted cotton producers to defoliate a few weeks earlier than expected. Moisture is lacking in winter grass planting. Fall armyworms caused damage in late hay crops.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“We've had excellent weather, so harvest operations in all crops are progressing well. Stalk destruction and fall tillage are going well also. Most of the remaining cotton has been defoliated and will be ready to pick in the next few days. Cool temperatures early last week, with frost in low-lying areas, may have caused some damage to very late cotton fields. Late soybean varieties are now maturing and will be harvested in 2-3 weeks.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Corn and soybean harvesting are almost complete. Defoliation of cotton is also complete. Cotton harvesting is progressing rapidly. Pasture and hay fields are in good shape due to good moisture conditions.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Excellent fall weather has allowed crops to mature and dry. Harvest is progressing well on all fronts. Early yield reports are favorable. Pastures are still in very good condition for this time of year.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“We could use some rain because some areas are getting dry. Moisture would help us get winter pastures up. We think that adequate supplies of hay have been put up. Peanut harvest is progressing well and yields look good. Beef producers are pleased with prices being received.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Harvest conditions are excellent and winter forage planting is almost complete. We are drier than we have been in the last 6 months.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Corn and hay harvest are almost complete. Producers are busy putting in winter forages.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Both corn and hay harvest are nearly complete. Some cool season forages are now being planted. Cattle continue to be in good condition. New blueberry acreage is now being prepared for plant establishment.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from September 29, 2003 to October 5, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				68		0.00	-0.63	0	3.89				
Cleveland				69		0.00	-0.51	0	3.27				
Tunica	80	43	59	68	-9	0.08	-0.55	1	2.33	76	51	68	0.20
Extreme/Average	80	43	59	69	-10	0.03	-0.66	0	3.16	76	51	68	0.20
2. North-Central													
Batesville	80	38	59	67	-8	0.00	-0.71	0	3.13				
Calhoun City				68		0.00	-0.68	0	3.28				
Independence	77	37	55	67	-12	0.00	-0.69	0	3.13				
Oxford	81	39	59	66	-7	0.00	-0.82	0	3.53				
Extreme/Average	81	37	58	67	-9	0.00	-0.73	0	3.27				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	44	58	66	-8	0.00	-0.75	0	3.31				
Corinth City	78	38	58	68	-10	0.00	-0.79	0	2.30				
Iuka	72	33	53	64	-11	0.00	-0.81	0	6.75				
Ripley	76	38	55	65	-10	0.00	-0.76	0	2.97				
Tupelo	79	41	60			0.00		0	4.61				
Verona				68		0.00	-0.77	0	3.73				0.20
Extreme/Average	79	33	57	67	-10	0.00	-0.80	0	3.95				0.20
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				70		0.00	-0.73	0	3.15				
Rolling Fork	85	43	63	70	-7	0.00	-0.78	0	2.00	87	69	78	
Stoneville	85	42	63	70	-7	0.00	-0.72	0	3.33	84	62	73	0.22
Yazoo City	83	42	61	71	-10	0.00	-0.78	0	2.80				
Extreme/Average	85	42	62	70	-8	0.00	-0.77	0	2.82	87	62	75	0.22
5. Central													
Canton	82	41	59	70	-11	0.00	-0.70	0	1.78				
Carthage	87	41	61	69	-8	0.00	-0.71	0	1.75				
Lexington	81	34	57	68	-11	0.00	-0.70	0	2.72				
Eupora				67		0.00	-0.83	0	1.94				
Extreme/Average	87	34	59	69	-10	0.00	-0.77	0	2.05				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	80	42	60	68	-8	0.00	-0.84	0	3.90				0.24
Houston	79	33	55	66	-11	0.00	-0.77	0	3.84				
Louisville	79	44	59	68	-9	0.00	-0.80	0	3.26				
State University	82	40	60	68	-8	0.00	-0.75	0	2.05	79	41	70	0.28
Extreme/Average	82	33	58	68	-10	0.00	-0.80	0	3.26	79	41	70	0.26
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	88	45	63	71	-8	0.00	-0.86	0	1.97	85	65	75	
Natchez	81	44	62	72	-10	0.00	-0.84	0	2.59				
Oakley				69		0.00	-0.66	0	4.20				
Vicksburg	82	44	61			0.00		0	2.76				
Extreme/Average	88	44	62	71	-9	0.00	-0.79	0	2.88	85	65	75	
8. South-Central													
Collins	82	43	62	70	-8	0.00	-0.85	0	2.57				
Columbia	84	44	63	71	-8	0.00	-0.81	0	1.92				
Tylertown	90	45	64	72	-8	0.00	-0.85	0	3.26				
Extreme/Average	90	43	63	71	-8	0.00	-0.77	0	2.58				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	86	43	63			0.00		0	3.09				
Hattiesburg	82	44	63	71	-8	0.00	-0.81	0	1.45				
Laurel	83	44	63	70	-7	0.00	-0.80	0	4.00				
Newton	83	38	58	68	-10	0.00	-0.75	0	2.42	75	57	66	0.17
Extreme/Average	86	38	62	70	-8	0.00	-0.74	0	2.74	75	57	66	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	88	42	66	73	-7	0.00	-0.88	0	2.64				
Gulfport	81	51	67	74	-7	0.00	-0.94	0	3.45				
Pascagoula				72		0.00	-1.08	0	3.81				
Poplarville				73					4.06				
Waveland	83	54	67	72	-5	0.00	-0.92	0	3.03				
Extreme/Average	88	42	66	73	-7	0.00	-0.89	0	3.23				
State	90	33	61	70	-9	0.00	-0.77	0	2.93	87	41	71	0.21

DFN = Departure from Normal.